

ST. ALBANS STORM ON

Wycombe W 0 St Albans 2

A DEFENSIVE blunder at a crucial stage ended Wycombe Wanderers' hopes in this Amateur Cup quarter-final between Isthmian League championship rivals, before a crowd of 8,000.

Wycombe had looked the more workmanlike side early on, and St. Albans owed their survival to several smart saves by goalkeeper Tony Mackie, notably from Hutchinson and Gale. And a spectacular header by Horseman scraped over the crossbar.

The turning point came in the 26th minute, when a cross from Childs found the home defence in a hopeless tangle. The ball struck the foot of the upright, and no one was on hand to stop right-winger Oxley as he sped in to score from the rebound.

Wycombe tried desperately to get back into the game in the second half, but St. Albans improved steadily. Wycombe's usually powerful half-back line failed to contain the fast-moving, thrustful livewires of the City attack, Turley, Butterfield, and Childs, all of whom had hot shots blocked on the goal-line as the home goal was besieged.

Lacking support, the home forwards could make little impression on the tight St. Albans defence.

It came as little surprise when in the 63rd minute, the busy Butterfield leaped high to turn a centre from Childs past goalkeeper Maskell, in another move which underlined the vulnerability of the home defence.